

**REMARKS****Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-127297 to Tanimoto.

Claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanimoto in view of Saito (U.S., 6,128,101).

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanimoto as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Saito.

Claims 1 and 6 are allowed.

**Summary of Response to the Office Action**

Claims 2 and 7 are amended to further define the invention. Claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 6, and 7 are presently pending for consideration.

**All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter**

In the Office Action, claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tanimoto. Claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanimoto in view of Saito. And, claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanimoto as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Saito. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

(i) Independent claims 2 and 7:

Claims 2 and 7 are amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter indicated by the Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 2 and 7 are clearly allowed, hence Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

(ii) Independent claims 4, 5, 8 and 9:

Applicants cancel claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4, 5, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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In light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully request that rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) be withdrawn because Tanimoto and Saito, whether taken singly or combined, fails to teach or suggest the features of amended independent claims 2 and 7. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 3 is allowable at least for the same reasons presented above with respect to independent claim 2 where it depends from and for each individual feature claim 3 recites.

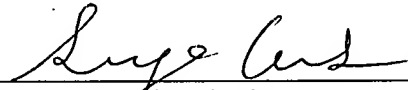
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

By:   
Sumiyo Onda  
Reg. No. L 0289

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Customer No. 09629

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W

Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: (202) 739-3000

Facsimile: (202) 739-3001